

while promoting research initiatives that have the potential to lead to breakthroughs in treatments and advances in care. Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month provides a special opportunity to bring together advocates and researchers to educate the public and support efforts to better understand this disease while working to improve the quality of life for impacted individuals. Washtenaw County's participation in the Light It Up Green event underscores the community's support for individuals diagnosed with muscular dystrophy, and it is my hope that public officials continue to play a leading role in combating this disease and promoting policies that provide all Americans the opportunity to live healthy lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing June as Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month. We must continue to support efforts to better understand muscular dystrophy so that there will one day be a cure for this devastating disease.

#### OPPOSING TRUMP ADMINISTRATION'S ATTACK ON AFFIRMATIVE ACTION IN HIGHER EDUCATION

#### HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in less than one week, the Trump Administration has managed to level a double blow to the fight against discrimination faced by minority groups in our country.

Yesterday, the Trump Justice Department, currently headed by Attorney General Jeff Session, announced plans to redirect departmental resources toward investigating and suing universities over their affirmative action admissions policies.

Mr. Speaker, this preemptive attack on higher education affirmative action programs, if fully implemented, will deny educational opportunities to millions of deserving students from underrepresented communities and hamper America's ability to compete and win in an increasingly complex, competitive, multicultural global economy.

Not only does the announcement by the Justice Department threatens to undo decades of progress in trying to ensure that every child in America—regardless of race or ethnicity—has an equal opportunity to succeed, but it is directly contrary to long line of judicial precedent upholding the use of race-conscious affirmative action programs that are narrowly drawn and administered to achieve diversity in higher education.

It was only a year ago that the Supreme Court, in *Fisher v. University of Texas*, No. 14–981, 579 U.S. \_\_\_\_ (2016), affirmed that the admissions policy of the University of Texas at Austin complied with the principles established in *Grutter v. Bollinger*, 539 U.S. 306 (2003), which held that “obtaining the educational benefits of student body diversity is a compelling state interest that can justify the use of race in university admissions.”

Mr. Speaker, as the Member of Congress for the Eighteenth Congressional District of Texas, I am proud to be a representative from a state that has played a pivotal role in the nation's educational equity jurisprudence, begin-

ning with the landmark case of *Sweatt v. Painter*, 339 U.S. 629 (1950), won by Thurgood Marshall and which held that segregated law schools violated the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment and laid the foundation for the landmark decision in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954), which prohibited racial segregation in all schools.

Affirmative action is needed to ensure diversity on college campuses which will yield diversity in the ranks of America's future leaders.

In a globalized and increasingly interconnected world, the nation that succeeds is the one best positioned to adapt to a world of differences—cultural, religious, economic, social, racial, and political.

The key to success in a diverse global economy is learning to adapt and thrive in diverse communities where the next generation and its leaders are educated and trained.

That is why it is truly appalling that the Sessions-led Department of Justice is seeking to undermine the principles established in *Grutter v. Bollinger*: that diversity in higher education is such a compelling governmental interest that race-conscious admission policies are permissible if other alternatives are found to be inadequate.

Mr. Speaker, we have seen before the effects of university admissions policies that do not address racial disparities in access to higher education.

From 1997 to 2004, affirmative action in admissions at the University of Texas was barred by the infamous Fifth Circuit decision in *Hopwood v. Texas*, 78 F.3d 932 (5th Cir. 1996).

As a result of the University of Texas's inability to consider a qualified applicant's race in the admissions process, between 1997 and 2004 African-American students never comprised more than 4.5 percent the entering class—far below the 13 percent of Texas high school graduates who are African Americans.

Worse yet, for the students attending the University of Texas during that period, 4 out of every 5 of classes (79 percent) at the University had zero, or only one, African-American student.

It should go without saying that these are not statistics we would like to see repeated, nor is this any way to produce a generation of American leaders for the 21st century.

Affirmative action works; it is the right thing to do for our country.

Fostering educational diversity and greater opportunity is critical to our nation's future in a global economy and an increasingly interconnected world.

That is why diversity is supported by a broad cross-section of American society, including military leaders, major corporations, small business owners, educators, and students from all backgrounds.

An America that celebrates diversity in higher education will produce the leaders, inventors, entrepreneurs, diplomats, public servants, and teachers that will serve our nation well in the global economy of the 21st century.

We must stand loudly and unequivocally against any effort made by this Administration to subvert the progress we have made in guaranteeing every American student, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion or other immutable characteristics, access to higher education and in positioning our country to com-

pete and win in the global economy of the 21st century.

#### HONORING ELISA MARCUS AND DROR BIKEI

#### HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, it is vitally important that we recognize those who strengthen our communities through their involvement. For the Conservative Synagogue Adath Israel in Riverdale, two of those individuals are Elisa Marcus and Dror Bikel, who are being honored this year with CSAIR's Kehillah Award at their annual Spring Gala.

Elisa grew up in Dayton, Ohio, where participating in shul life was a given and Shabbat meant going to synagogue and being with family and friends. Dror took a different path to Jewish involvement. Born in Berkeley, California to Israeli parents, then living in Brookline, Massachusetts, Dror was not particularly involved in formal Jewish life. While he was studying at Brandeis University, his interest in Israel and Jewish life awakened. Both Elisa and Dror spent formative years studying in Israel. They later found themselves and each other on the Upper West Side, where their friendships and involvement in the community of young Jews brought them together.

Fast forward to Riverdale and CSAIR. Through Mason Voit, CSAIR Director of Education and Family Life, Elisa was drawn to serve the shul. For three years she led the Young Children's Family Program and joined the Board of Trustees. She played an important role in a three-year review of the synagogue's mission statement and currently serves as the Vice President for Education.

Dror's passion for Krav Maga first led him to teaching evening classes in the synagogue, then to answering a call by CSAIR president Abby Pitkowsky and Rabbi Katz to lead CSAIR's security program. His work led to the hiring of a security consultant to help with the acquisition and implementation of \$100,000 in grants to improve the building's access control, physical structure, and communication system.

The character of the community is something Dror and Elisa care deeply about. Their children, Ariel, 9, and Liat, 7 love being in the building, attending services, and have developed great friendships. From the beginning of their involvement, Elisa and Dror have been struck by the degree to which people care about CSAIR and want to be involved, and it shows through their dedication and service. Congratulations to them both on receiving this great honor.

#### HONORING DR. ROBERT (BOB) SHILLMAN

#### HON. EDWARD R. ROYCE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 2017

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Dr. Robert (Bob) Shillman. I have been a friend of Dr. Bob's for many years. I